

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 93 and 98 as follows:

Claims 1-92 (canceled)

Claim 93 (currently amended): An automatically-activated wireless bar code symbol reading system for use in a work environment and having an operational mode and a sleep mode, said automatically-activated wireless bar code symbol reading system comprising:

(A) a wireless hand-supportable bar code symbol reader in two-way RF communication with a base station operably connected to a host system, by way of an RF-based wireless data communication link having a predetermined RF communication range over which two-way communication of data packets can occur, said wireless hand-supportable bar code symbol reader including

- (1) a hand-supportable housing having a light transmission window,
- (2) a battery disposed within said hand-supportable housing, for supplying electrical power to electrical-energy consuming components employed therewithin;
- (3) an objection detection subsystem disposed within said hand-supportable housing, for automatically detecting an object within the vicinity of said light transmission window and generating a control activation signal in response thereto;
- (4) an automatic bar code symbol reading mechanism, disposed in said hand-supportable housing and responsive to the generation of said control activation signal, for automatically reading a bar code symbol on an object and producing a symbol character data string representative of said read bar code symbol,
- (5) a first RF-based transceiver chipset, disposed in said hand-supportable housing, for transmitting data packets corresponding to said produced symbol character data string, to said base station and for subsequent transmission to said host system,
- (6) a battery power level detection circuit for automatically detecting the available electrical power remaining within said wireless hand-supportable bar code symbol reader, and when said power level is detected as falling below a predetermined threshold, automatically

generating a control signal which causes said automatically-activated wireless bar code symbol reading system to enter said sleep mode,

(7) a manually-actuatable switch disposed on said hand-supportable housing for causing said system to exit said sleep mode and re-enter said operational mode, and

(8) a first microcontroller, operably associated with said first RF-based transceiver chipset, for controlling the operation of said first RF-based transceiver chipset; and

(B) said base station installable within a work environment and including

(1) a base station housing,

(2) a second RF-based transceiver chipset, disposed within said base station housing, for receiving data packets corresponding to said symbol character data strings transmitted from said first RF-based transceiver chipset, and

(3) a second microcontroller, operably associated with said second RF-based transceiver chipset, for controlling the operation of the second RF-based transceiver chipset;

wherein said first and second RF-based transceiver chipsets enable said RF-based wireless data communication link between said wireless hand-supportable bar code symbol reader and said base station;

wherein said first and second RF-based transceiver chipsets cooperate to enable the communication of data packets over said RF-based wireless data communication link, during said operational mode;

wherein said second RF-based transceiver includes means for automatically generating and transmitting a reference signal to said first RF-based transceiver circuit over said RF-based wireless data communication link;

wherein said first RF-based transceiver circuit includes means for automatically receiving said reference signal and detecting the strength of said reference signal; and

wherein when said system enters said sleep mode, then said first and second RF-based chipsets and said first and second microcontrollers associated therewith are automatically deactivated and said ~~RF~~ RF-based wireless data communication link is terminated to conserve said electrical power within said wireless hand-supportable bar code symbol reader, and

wherein, when said system re-enters its operational mode, then said first and second ~~RF~~ RF-based chipsets and said first and second microcontrollers associated therewith are

automatically reactivated and said ~~RF~~ RF-based wireless data communication link is re-established to resume communication between said wireless hand-supportable bar code symbol reader and said base station.

Claims 94-95 (canceled)

Claim 96 (previously presented): The automatically-activated wireless laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, wherein said base station further comprises: a cradle portion adapted for receiving said hand-supportable housing.

Claim 97 (previously presented): The automatically-activated wireless laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, wherein said reference signal is a heartbeat-type signal generated from said second RF-based transceiver circuit.

Claim 98 (currently amended): The automatically-activated wireless laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, which further comprises an indicator, integrated with said hand-supportable housing, for indicating each instance of when a bar code symbol is read by said ~~laser-scanning~~ automatic bar code symbol reading mechanism and a symbol character data string representative ~~thereof~~ of said read bar code symbol is produced.

Claim 99 (currently amended): The automatically-activated wireless laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, wherein said objection detection subsystem comprises infrared (IR) signal transmission/receiving circuitry for automatically detecting said object within an object detection field definable relative to said hand-supportable housing.

Claim 100 (currently amended): The automatically-activated wireless laser scanning bar code symbol reading system of claim 93, wherein said objection detection subsystem comprises a low-power non-visible laser beam signaling mechanism for automatically detecting said object within an object detection field definable relative to said hand-supportable housing.